

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 EB-07

AID-05 IGA-01 DOTE-00 HEW-02 HUD-01 OES-03 AGR-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 CEQ-01 EPA-01 INT-05 COME-00

NSF-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00

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HABITAT INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, ECLA, ECA, ESCAP, ECWA, ECE

SUBJECT: UN HABITAT CONFERENCE - REGIONAL MEETINGS:

ESCAP/ECWA, ECA, ECLA AND ECE

REFS: STATE 135051; TEHRAN 5541

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1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED NEW DOCUMENT FROM HABITAT SECRETARIAT (A/CONF.70/RDC/1 - MAJOR THEMES REQUIRING NATIONAL ACTION) WHICH IS, IN EFFECT, A FURTHER REVISION OF CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK PAPER. (COPY BEING POUCHED TO

CARACAS. SEE SCHIFF-MILLS LETTER.) WE ASSUME IT RATHER THAN CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK PAPER WILL BECOME BASIS OF DISCUSSION AT REGIONAL MEETINGS. IT BEARS STRONG RESEMBLANCE TO LATTER PAPER BUT THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES.

2. AMONG PRINCIPAL DIFFERENCES ARE:

A. WHAT WERE IN CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK PAPER IDENTIFIED AS ISSUES ARE NOW CALLED THEMES OF WHICH THERE ARE FIVE:

1) NATIONAL HUMAN SETTLEMENT POLICIES

2) MINIMUM NEEDS AND STANDARDS

3) RESOURCES FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

4) LAND AS RESOURCE

5) RESOURCES FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

B. ITEM ON QUOTE EXPLICIT PLANS END QUOTE IN CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK PAPER HAS DISAPPEARED AND BEEN ABSORBED INTO DISCUSSION OF QUOTE NATIONAL SETTLEMENTS POLICY. END QUOTE

3. PAPER IS MORE DISCURSIVE, LESS POINTED AND HAS SOME SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS. THIS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF ITEM QUOTE RESOURCES FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. END QUOTE IN CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK PAPER, ENERGY CONSERVATION AND TRANSPORTATION WERE SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIFIC MENTION. IN NEW PAPER, DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM IS MORE GENERAL AND DIFFUSE WITH ACCENT MORE ON NEED FOR CHANGING DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES, ALTERNATIVE LIFE STYLES, ETC.

4. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING WE HAVE REVISED TALKING POINTS FOR USE OF US DEL TO RELATE TO NEW PAPER (A/CONF.70/RDC/1).

GENERAL POINTS US DEL SHOULD MAKE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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-- WE BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE MAY BE TO INCREASE RECOGNITION OF THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF PROBLEMS THAT ONE ASSOCIATES WITH HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TO SHARPEN OUR PERCEPTIONS OF THEM.

-- WITH ONE EXCEPTION, WE BELIEVE THESE MAJOR THEMES WOULD PROVIDE SUITABLE FRAMEWORK FOR VANCOUVER CONFERENCE. EXCEPTION IS ITEM ON MINIMUM NEEDS AND STANDARDS. US DOES NOT DISPUTE UTILITY OF STANDARDS NOR DO WE DISAGREE WITH NEED FOR LDC'S TO AVOID BORROWING STANDARDS OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WITHOUT ADAPTATION TO LOCAL CONDITION AND RESOURCES. BUT FOR REASONS NOTED STATE REFTEL, WE BELIEVE

THIS ITEM DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO USEFUL CONFERENCE DISCUSSION BUT MIGHT BETTER BE DEALT WITH IN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

5. RE ITEM ON QUOTE NATIONAL HUMAN SETTLEMENT POLICIES  
END QUOTE

US DEL SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE FIND SECRETARIAT'S PRESENTATION OF THIS ITEM, AS IN CASE OF INSTITUTIONS, TOO BIASED IN DIRECTION OF A SINGLE PRESCRIPTION FOR DEALING WITH NATIONAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POLICY. IT LEAVES NO ROOM FOR ALTERNATIVES BASED ON DIFFERING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

-- IN OUR VIEW, DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM OUGHT TO BRING OUT ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO DEALING WITH QUESTIONS OF POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND LOCATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND BASIC SERVICES AND WHICH RECOGNIZES COMPLEXITY OF ISSUES BEING DEALT WITH AND INSTITUTIONAL SETTING WITHIN WHICH THEY OCCUR.

-- IN ADDITION, DISCUSSION MIGHT TRY TO IDENTIFY PRINCIPAL AREAS OF ACTIVITY THAT CAN BE COMPREHENDED IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POLICY - (SHELTER, TRANSPORTATION, ETC.).

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6. RE ITEM ON QUOTE RESOURCES FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS END QUOTE -

A. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ITEM, WITH THE EMPHASIS IN FIRST PARAGRAPH ON NEED FOR QUOTE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN PATTERNS OF CONSUMPTION AND IN TECHNOLOGY END QUOTE AND QUOTE ALTERNATIVE LIFE STYLES AND UNEQUAL ACCESS TO RESOURCES END QUOTE MIGHT TURN INTO DISCUSSION OF MAL-DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD'S RESOURCES, NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, ETC. IT IGNORES FACT - AS MANY COUNTRIES AT PREP COM, INCLUDING US POINTED OUT - THAT GROWTH REMAINS A PREREQUISITE TO A COUNTRY'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

B. US DEL SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- DISCUSSION AT VANCOUVER OUGHT TO CONCENTRATE ON HOW TO ACHIEVE MORE RATIONAL USE OF RESOURCES IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS THROUGH:

1) MORE EFFICIENT URBAN DESIGN (SETTLEMENT PATTERNS)  
AND URBAN SYSTEMS. THIS WOULD ALLOW EXAMINATION IN SOME

INTEGRATED FASHION OF RELATED QUESTIONS OF LAND USE,  
TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY CONSERVATION.

2) CONSERVATION OF EXISTING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE ENORMOUS INVESTMENTS IN EXISTING URBAN AND RURAL SETTLEMENTS, WHICH - IF IGNORED - WOULD TRANSLATE INTO EQUALLY ENORMOUS WASTE OF RESOURCES. FINDING WAYS TO PRESERVE THESE SETTLEMENTS AND REVITALIZE THEM IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

7. RE ITEM ON QUOTE LAND USE END QUOTE -

US DEL MIGHT STATE:

-- WE BELIEVE PARA 32 IN NEW PAPER INCORPORATES KINDS OF ISSUES THAT MERIT CONFERENCE DISCUSSION.  
-- EXPANDING URBAN SETTLEMENTS JEOPARDIZE THE LIFE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT. MEASURES HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF PRIME AGRICULTURAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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LAND, TO PROTECT OTHER AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN AND TO MINIMIZE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION.

8. RE ITEM ON QUOTE HUMAN SETTLEMENT INSTITUTIONS END QUOTE -

US DEL SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- SECRETARIAT PAPER STRONGLY IMPLIES THAT INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROBLEMS.

-- DISCUSSION OVERLOOKS TWO IMPORTANT DIMENSIONS OF INSTITUTIONAL QUESTION: 1) PRIVATE SECTOR, WHICH HAS IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY, PARTICULARLY IN FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND 2) THE ALTERNATIVE TO INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONS - I.E., COORDINATION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO PLANNING AND POLICY MAKING - AMONG AGENCIES WITH DIFFERENT BUT RELATED FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

-- OBVIOUSLY EVERY COUNTRY IS FREE TO STRUCTURE ITS INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN ITS OWN WAY, BUT WE BELIEVE THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES WHICH ARE PREFERABLE TO THE MONOLITHIC ORGANIZATION THE SECRETARIAT SEEKS TO SUGGEST.

-- GOAL SHOULD BE TO AVOID AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE INCONSISTENT ACTIONS, WHICH CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH BETTER COORDINATION AMONG DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND BETWEEN DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT (NATIONAL-REGIONAL-

LOCAL) AND THROUGH COOPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS.

-- ON OTHER HAND, WE AGREE WITH SECRETARIAT'S EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING AND ON IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING OF SKILLED PROFESSIONALS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

9. WE SUGGEST ADDITION OF NEW ITEM: SHELTER POLICY.

A. SHELTER POLICY IS COMPRISED OF TWO DISTINCT COMPONENT  
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ELEMENTS: 1) QUANTITATIVE NEED, I.E., THE NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS NECESSARY, 2) QUALITATIVE CONSIDERATIONS. EXAMPLES INCLUDE PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER SUPPLY, SEWAGE DISPOSAL, LOCATION OF JOBS, SCHOOLS, PARKS IN RELATION TO HOUSING.

CONCENTRATION IN PAST HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON NUMBERS AND HAS IGNORED THE BROADER PERSPECTIVE OF SUPPORT FACILITIES NECESSARY TO MAKE HOUSING Viable. WHAT WE ARE SUGGESTING IS AIMED AT GETTING CONSIDERATION OF SHELTER, BROADLY DEFINED.

US DEL SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE SEE SHELTER POLICY AS IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POLICY, BUT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT DISCRETE TREATMENT.

--DEL SHOULD PUT STRESS ON QUOTE POLICY END QUOTE SINCE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE CONFERENCE SHOULD GET INTO DISCUSSION OF TECHNOLOGIES WHICH CAN BE DEALT WITH BY TECHNICIANS. UNDER SHELTER POLICY WE WOULD INCLUDE SUCH THINGS AS: SHELTER STRATEGIES AND THEIR NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, INTER ALIA: THE INCOME, AGE, SEX AND CULTURE OF THE POPULATION.

-- IN ADDITION, WE SUGGEST THAT IN FORMULATION OF SHELTER POLICY THREE OTHER ELEMENTS NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT: LOCATION OF HOUSING IN RELATION TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (I.E., ECONOMIES THAT ARE POSSIBLE WHEN HOUSING AND JOBS ARE IN RELATIVELY CLOSE PROXIMITY); LOCATION OF BASIC SUPPORT FACILITIES TO HOUSING AND LASTLY, MEANS OF MOBILIZING DOMESTIC FINANCING OF HOUSING. KISSINGER

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